

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON,

AND

DR. N. CHAPMAN.

To have added certificates to the ensuing statement, would have rendered the publication inconveniently long. But with a view of guarding against inaccuracies, I submitted the manuscript to each of the gentlemen whose names are introduced, and am authorised to say, that the averments in every instance, are correct and true.

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

IT seems to me proper, on several accounts, that the ensuing Correspondence should be laid before the public; and, in order to render the subject to which it relates, more intelligible, I shall add a few remarks.

Baltimore, 12th October, 1820.

SIR,

When the slightest insinuation is thrown out against the character of a man of honour, it becomes his painful duty, to seek that redress, which as a gentleman he is intitled to demand, and no one, if he has injured another, can refuse. Since my arrival in this country, much has been done by certain individuals, to hurt my reputation; and I have frequently heard, but in a manner which prevented me seeking an explanation, that you had used great liberties in speaking of my character. As I am determined that no person shall, with impunity, couple my name either with a mean or dishonourable action; my present object in addressing you, is to ascertain whether you have asserted, that you believe me to be the author of an anonymous letter said to have been received by you last winter, and at present handing about in Philadelphia.

That I may immediately know how to proceed in this affair, I have to request that you will answer this letter, (which, to prevent any mistake, shall be delivered into your hands by Dr. Eberle,) by return of post.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, your obedient servant,

GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON.

For Dr. CHAPMAN, &c. &c. &c.

Baltimore, 17th Oct. 1820.

SIR,

Mr. Pattison called on me last week for the purpose of getting me to accompany him to Philadelphia as his friend, to require of you an explanation of a report injurious to his character, which he had reason to believe had emanated from you. The exalted character, which I have ever entertained of you for honour and justice, induced me to advise him to write you the letter delivered into your own hands by Doctor Eberle on Friday evening—to which he has not yet received any answer. Unwilling that this affair should be brought to a disagreeable conclusion, I have again prevailed on Mr. Pattison to delay his departure to Philadelphia, until a reply to this is due, when I hope to receive from you such an answer as will enable me to make an arrangement, at once honourable and satisfactory to the parties concerned.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, your obedient servant,

C. MACAULAY.

Doctor N. CHAPMAN.

P. S. That this should come safe into your own hands, I have enclosed it to Doctor Eberle, with the request that he should deliver it without delay.

C. M.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 17th inst. I have only to observe, that from various facts which have come to my knowledge, of the character and conduct of Mr. Pattison, as well in relation to the causes which compelled him to leave Scotland, as to events which have subsequently happened, I have determined to hold no communication with him, by correspondence or otherwise.

If any further proceedings on the part of Mr. P. should render it necessary, I shall take an opportunity, through the medium of the press, of assigning the reasons which have led me to this decision.

I am, Sir, very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

To Dr. C. MACAULAY, &c.

N. CHAPMAN.

Philadelphia, Oct. 19, 1820.

In the course of the last winter, a series of anonymous letters were addressed to Dr. Physick and myself, of a very offensive nature. Circumstances led us to suspect, that if not written by Mr. Pattison, he was at least privy to their production. They were marked by *Scotiscisms*, had *several phrases peculiar to the medical schools of Scotland*, and aimed at the object, which we well understood, was steadily pursued by himself and friends, of forcing Dr. Gibson and Dr. Horner out of their positions in our University, to make way for his own admission. That these letters, however, were circulated, or indeed shewn to any person, except to Dr. Dewees and Dr. Horner, I do deny.* The latter gentleman tells me, of which I was not aware, that he did speak of them unreservedly, as the probable production of Mr. Pattison, *which imputation he caused to be communicated to him, through the medium of his friends, with a mes-*

* One letter lately to Dr. B. M. Patterson.

sage, that he was prepared to render him any redress which he might exact.

In directing his interrogatory to this point alone, Mr. Pattison obviously hoped to evade a subject, on which he knew I had spoken often, and without disguise. To repel a charge preferred against Dr. Physick and myself, and which we learnt was most industriously propagated in Baltimore especially, of having brought him to this country, and afterwards, very wantonly persecuting him; I had on several occasions, distinctly declared, such allegations to be utterly false,—that, on the contrary, he was driven hither by an incensed public, in consequence of a most odious deed, hereafter to be explained,—and, that our reception and treatment of him were kind in the extreme, till he forfeited every claim to our notice, by the development of his character, and the particular reprehensibility of his conduct toward us.

The history of his visit to the United States may be told in a few words. Early in November 1818, Mr. John Pattison, the brother, announces to him the vacancy in our school, by the death of Dr. Dorsey, with his advice to become a candidate for the chair. The intelligence is received late in December; he determines to do so, and letters of recommendation of this date, are procured and transmitted to Dr. Physick and myself, which were received on the 12th of April, and here commenced our knowledge of Mr. Granville Pattison.

He did not contemplate, at first, coming to this country. In March, however, Dr. Ure, of Glasgow, sues out and obtains a divorce from his wife, on the ground of an *adulterous intercourse* with Mr. Pattison. As must happen in every community which retains any sense of virtue, or the positive obligations of religion, a clamour is raised against him, which, finding he could not resist, he repairs to London,

lingers there a few weeks, and then embarks for this country.

What is the degree of Mr. Pattison's guilt in this transaction, I shall not take on myself to determine. This is now a matter between himself and his God. Documents, however, which I have seen, prove that he was at the time, the colleague of Dr. Ure, in the Andersonian Institution—that he habitually visited in his family, one of the most respectable in Glasgow, and that the transgression did not proceed from the temporary ascendancy of passion over moral restraint, but was lengthened out and aggravated by repeated assignations, &c. &c.

As stated, such I sincerely believe to be the cause of Mr. Pattison's emigration. But this is denied, and he complains of being allured hither by the promises of Dr. Physick and myself.

Where is the evidence of the fact? It is said to be contained in a letter from Dr. Dewees, which I have never been able to see. But I learn from the author of it, that to the best of his recollection, it merely acquaints Mr. Pattison, that it is the opinion of two gentlemen, not designated by name, who are well qualified to judge, that whatever may be the weight of his credentials, he can not possibly succeed in his application, without being personally present, and, therefore, advises his coming.

It is not pretended that the letter was written with my privity or consent. The fact is, I knew nothing even of its existence till seven or eight months subsequent to its date. Even allowing the reverse, it is still susceptible of proof, that it could not and did not supply the motive of Mr. Pattison's removal. The date of the letter cannot be exactly ascertained. But I am assured by Dr. Dewees, that it must have been written very late in April, and therefore, in all probability, it was forwarded by the New-York packet of

the 10th of May, the stated period for the sailing of these vessels, and I have one from Mr. Stirling of London of the 27th of the same month, in which the immediate embarkation of Mr. Pattison for the United States is mentioned.

By the preceding statement, a train of reflections is suggested. Why, it will be asked, did not Mr. John Pattison call on Dr. Physick and myself, to ascertain how far such a communication was authorized?—what was the nature and degree of support we were prepared to afford, as well as the prospect of success in the proposed application for the professorship? Can it be presumed for a moment, that any man situated as Mr. Granville Pattison is described to have been at the time, triumphant as a teacher, prosperous as a practitioner, devoted to his country, surrounded by family and friends, would break such ties, and surrender up such certainties for an attainment so indefinite and precarious?

Had, however, Dr. Physick and myself been inclined to promote Mr. Pattison's election, we could not have done it. Two of the Trustees of our College, about the first of May, waited on Dr. Physick, who was still confined to his room by illness, to inform him, that they had resolved to make an appointment, and that it was the opinion of a large majority of the Board, that the interest of the school imperatively required, he should be transferred to the Anatomical chair, in consequence of which strong representation, he acquiesced, though very reluctantly, in the measure.

All the testimonials, however, in favour of Mr. Pattison, in our possession, had been laid before the trustees—he was caused regularly to be nominated,—and in every respect entire justice was done to his pretensions.

Before his arrival, the election was over, of which he is

apprised by Professor Hare, on his landing at New York—to whom, instead of expressing disappointment, or uttering a complaint, he remarks, that the *main motive of his visit to this country was to see his brother and family, and that he should speedily return*. Exactly the same language he holds to Dr. Physick, Dr. Dewees, Dr. Horner, and myself on his reaching this city. Not a whisper of reproach escapes him, even at the subsequent period, when he found Dr. Physick and myself strenuously supporting Dr. Gibson in opposition to him for the chair of Surgery. On the contrary, he says to Dr. Physick, *you have held out to me no promises, and therefore I have no claims on you*. On this point I speak positively, and with the *express authority* of Dr. Physick.

He further declares to us and many others, that he is very indifferent as to the event, meaning to go to London, where he has the most brilliant prospects of professional success, and solicits Dr. Horner to accompany him on an excursion to Canada, whence he is to sail for England.

The first intimation I had of his design to remain in this country, was given in a conference with me, on the expediency of his accepting an offer of 1500 dollars from the college of Lexington, to teach Anatomy. The offer is declined, not however, till the appointment is formally made, and extracts from the whole of his letters of introduction, are published in the western papers.

Now commences, the distinguished kindness, or as he is pleased to term it, the persecution of Dr. Physick and myself. The masquerade dress which hitherto had enveloped him, he throws off—approaches us in proper person, avows his pecuniary distresses,—unfolds his views,—and solicits our patronage.

As the result of our best judgment, we discourage him from settling in Philadelphia—urge his return to London—

or if determined to continue in America, to select Baltimore as a residence, having an opening both in the Medical School, and in the practice of Surgery, created by the removal of Dr. Gibson, *and letters of introduction are solicited by me, from this gentleman for the purpose.* But he decides otherwise—establishes himself in this city—and henceforward is introduced into business by Dr. Physick—consulted in some difficult cases—is invited by him to operate before an assemblage of medical men to display his skill—has a letter backed by our joint recommendation to the Trustees, to allow him accommodation for his Museum—we endeavour to get him the privilege of lecturing in some apartment of the University,—and attend his introductory lecture, to manifest unequivocally to the students our friendly disposition for the success of his course.

Yet, all this did not satisfy him, and in proportion as we conceded, was the increase of his demands. To be appointed the adjunct of Dr. Physick, or to have physiology detached from me, and united with morbid and minute anatomy, as a separate professorship, was the *sine qua non*, the last of his very reasonable demands.

It was in vain, we urged the inadmissibility of such arrangements—that they were improper in themselves—that the Trustees would never appoint so recent a foreigner to any place—that he must become a citizen—ratify his claims by longer residence and more intimate acquaintance—keep quiet—entangle himself with no medical party, engage in no dispute, and we would guarantee his ultimate success.

After this, we had little intercourse with him. He seemed to be soured, gradually alienated himself from us, began a system of hostility to the school and personal detraction

of the professors, and was as insolent in his general demeanor, as he had previously been humble, laudatory, and submissive.

At this period, the letter of Dr. Dewees and the attendant accusations came forth, not manfully presented as a just grievance, calling for explanation and redress, but in vague and untangible rumors. Neither the one nor the other was previously signified to Dr. Physick or myself; or even the slightest dissatisfaction expressed.

He had spoken of us at all times as his kindest benefactors, and so late as the evening on which he delivered his introductory lecture, the first of November, he took me by the hand, in the presence of Dr. Dewees, and several other gentlemen, and thanked me, and through me Dr. Physick, for our liberal and magnanimous conduct towards him.

In a short time his character was pretty well evolved, and we could not forbear to inquire into the validity of the grounds on which our early prepossessions rested. It appeared, in the first place, that the account which he had given us of the affair with Mrs. Ure, was so much distorted, as hardly to retain any of the facts. As this, however, is a matter of leading importance, I shall be more precise.

Mr. Pattison, on hearing that the story of his amour had reached Philadelphia, convened Dr. Physick, Dr. Dewees, and myself, for the purpose of reading to us an elaborate printed pamphlet, containing his defence, on the conclusion of which, he requested, that if convinced of his innocence, we would give him a certificate to that effect. Though probably none of us doubted it—such was our confidence in the veracity of his statements, supported by the respectability of his recommendations—we declined doing it, and advised his submitting the case to Mr. Binney or some other emi-

nent legal character, for an opinion, as calculated to produce a much stronger effect on the public mind.

Not long afterwards he tells me, with much apparent satisfaction, that Mr. Binney had decided in his favour, and requested me to communicate it to Dr. Physick, which I accordingly did. Being widely diffused, this report served very much to repress the force of the accusation, and was only contradicted a month or two ago, by a declaration from Mr. Binney to me, that he had never been at all consulted in the case. He had previously told Dr. Physick, that Mr. Chauncey had delivered a similar opinion. Whether it be true, I am unable to ascertain. Mr. Chauncey having recently been professionally consulted by Mr. Pattison, considerations of delicacy forbid any application to him on the subject.

Nor is this the only deception which he practised. A letter declared by him to be from Dr. Ure to his wife, was read to us, to demonstrate the iniquity of their character, of a description so detestably obscene, that I dare not cite even a single passage, or allude more distinctly to its contents. This letter, I have since understood, was not exhibited on the trial, makes no part of the record, and the presumption is strong, and more particularly as it proves to be *anonymous*, that it is a mere fabrication.

What is the precise standing of Dr. Ure in Glasgow, or how it was affected by this public event, I have no means of accurately determining. But it is not true, as averred by Mr. Pattison, that covered with disgrace, he was expelled from the city. I find from the periodical journals, that he continues to be in full communion with the scientific men abroad—retains his professorship—and that within the present year, he was honoured by the attendance of a large collection of the most eminent citizens at a lecture in which he displayed his splendid experiments in galvanism.

That nothing appeared to his prejudice on the memorable trial, we have a right to infer from the fact of the divorce having been granted, as it is the established practice of the British courts of law, to withhold such relief, where the parties are equally culpable. Even Majesty itself, we have recently seen, has been compelled to yield to this imperative dictate of justice, and inexorable usage.

Though not directly connected with my subject, it is perhaps right, that I should say a word or two in reference to Mr. Pattison's boasted discovery, since my name has, and will probably be still more, brought into discussion. Two or three months ago, I gave to Dr. Gibson a certificate, stating that Mr. Pattison had acknowledged to me his familiar acquaintance with Colles' book, and that the fascia therein described differed essentially from the one claimed by himself, as he would show when he entered on his dissections.

At this, I understand, he was greatly provoked, and has accused me of misrepresentation. In reply, I will repeat, that I have a most distinct recollection of the fact, having often mentioned it, and that I am borne out by the testimony of Dr. Hays and Dr. Edward Barton, who heard him, on another occasion, avow his having read the book previously to his coming to this country.

There is, however, some circumstantial proof, which, while it sustains me, convicts him of a deliberate attempt in another instance to impose on us, and through us, the medical public of this country.

That he claimed the discovery of the fascia when he first arrived among us, and has been compelled to relinquish it to Mr. Colles is not denied.

Can it be credited, that any man in the position of Mr. Pattison, supposing himself the author of a discovery curi-

ous in itself, and of the highest practical import, for such he has proclaimed it, would not have consulted, and even diligently scrutinized all the authorities on the subject, and particularly the treatise of an eminent professor in a neighbouring college, on the very structure involving it? Why, too, was it not published in Europe? Certainly he has shown none of that sensibility which diffidently shrinks from the press. Nor can we refrain from inquiring why the great European anatomists, Mr. Cooper, and Dr. Thompson, and Dr. Barclay, before whom he tells us he made the demonstration, and received an explicit recognition of his title to the discovery, have not alluded to it in their letters of introduction? Would they, I finally demand, have omitted so important an incident in the estimate of his character and pretensions? At all events Mr. Pattison is hung on the horns of a dilemma from which he cannot extricate himself. Conceding that Cooper, and Barclay, and Thompson and Dupuytren did really confess the fascia to be a structure, prior to the illustration of Mr. Pattison, unknown to them, what becomes of the charge of ignorance which he has arrogantly cast on Dr. Physick and the rest of the anatomists of this country relative to the subject?

The character and conduct, of Mr. Pattison, I have now, perhaps, placed in sufficient relief before the public. It may possibly be asked, how Dr. Physick and myself came to countenance an individual of this description. The answer is plain, and can be given in one word. Confiding in the commendatory letters of our friends, and his own plausible statements, we believed him guiltless of the imputed charges and considered him, as doubtless many very honest people in Baltimore now do, cruelly persecuted.

It is only within a short period I have discovered, that the whole of the letters from *Scotland*, to Dr. Physick and

myself, are of a date anterior to the *criminal affair*; and still more recently, I have had reasons to believe, that the writers of some of those letters have expressed their regret at giving them to a person who had proved so unworthy. Certain it is, and I make the statement, on the authority of two most respectable men who have lately returned from Glasgow, that Mr. Pattison is generally condemned in that city, and that it was spoken of every where, as a matter of astonishment, that he should have been so readily received into the society of this country.

The object of this address I hope will not be misunderstood. It is not to vindicate the alleged refusal to meet Mr. Pattison. Even if I had received a formal challenge, which I never did, as appears from the correspondence, and however pure his character might have been, I should have at once, declined it. The disparity of our age, the inequality of our condition in society, the claims of a numerous family, and the obligation imposed by my public station, must have dictated this decision. It really would seem to me, under any circumstances, not quite fit to have introduced my course of lectures, with the spectacle of a duel. The parents and friends of the several hundred young men confided to our care, require of us very different things; and assuredly, had I yielded on this occasion, I should have had to encounter the heaviest censure, and perhaps a more decisive step from those discreet and elevated men, under whom I have the honour to hold my appointment. With Mr. Pattison it is entirely different. He is an adventurer with a tainted reputation, which he hoped to repair. What has he to lose? and to ruin the happiness of a family, we have already seen is one of his sports. Yet from his manner of receiving Dr. Horner's communication, there would appear to be some method in his madness, and Bobadil like, he displays his valour only, where there is no possibility of danger.

I have now done with Mr. Pattison. Of the public, I sincerely beg pardon for obtruding on them such a communication. An appeal of this sort, I sensibly feel is most derogatory and I have long avoided it. Perhaps it was now unnecessary. Encouraged however, by our forbearance, there seemed to be no end to the calumnies and misrepresentations, raised by Mr. Pattison and his auxiliaries, at the expence of Dr. Physick and myself. As a private individual, we knew his insignificance, and despised his malicious endeavours. Elevated however as he is, to a most respectable station, and sustained by the influence which it confers, it was thought, that he had acquired some importance, and that the public mind should be enlightened as to his character and machinations.

N. CHAPMAN.

Philadelphia, Nov. 5, 1820.

P. S. It would really seem impossible for Mr. Pattison, on any occasion, to adhere to the truth. An impression has gone abroad, and is now made the subject of a paragraph in the Baltimore papers—doubtless originating with, or sanctioned by him—that the prosecution against him for sending the alleged challenge, was instigated by myself and some others of our medical faculty, with the hope of detaining him here, to the injury of the school to which he belongs.

Twice did Mr. Biddle in open court, and once to Mr. Chauncey, *in the presence of Mr. Pattison* declare, that the prosecution was his own act, in which I or others had no concern, directly or indirectly, and for which he assumed the entire responsibility. Nor is Mr. Pattison ignorant, that when Mr. S. F. Bradford, with the best intentions, voluntarily called on me, on the night of the arrest, to ask my interference for the suppression of the legal proceeding, I at once expressed my willingness to do so, if any mode could be pointed out to effect it, and that I gave assurance at the same time, in the event of the conviction of Mr. Pattison, I would instantly in person apply to the executive for his pardon.